



Data to Message Subcommittee

MINUTES

June 3, 2009 Meeting

Attendees (please send us any corrections):

Shelley DuTeaux (ARB)	Wendi Dick, MD, San Joaquin County Public Health
Libby Vianu (ATSDR)	Robert Nunes, Monterey Bay Unified APCD
John Kennedy (US EPA Reg 9)	Cho Nai Cheung, Contra Costa County Health Services
Bob Blaisdell (OEHHA)	Kathy Coulter, Yolo Solano AQMD
Karen Riveles (OEHHA)	Eric Olson, Siskiyou County APCD
Sue Woods (CCP)	Marcella McTaggart, El Dorado County AQMD
Joe Arsenith, Placer County HHS	David Nunes, San Joaquin Valley AQMD
Sophia Johnston, Sacramento County	

Welcome and Introductions – Libby Vianu

CARPA Overview - Libby Vianu

We are now getting off the ground with our first organizational meeting. Our aim is to continue building collaboration and providing training and outreach.

CARPA History - Shelley DuTeaux

CARPA was formed in 2006 to coordinate responses to toxic air emergencies. We reviewed the CARPA mission, described the Steering Committee and the agencies represented. We are finalizing the CARPA charter, which includes a description of the larger organization and the formation of three committees along the 2008 Summit themes - - Data, Data to Message, and Message to Audience.

Information on the structure of CARPA, as well as material from the 2008 Summit, is available online at www.arb.ca.gov/carpa/carpa.htm.

Data to Message Subcommittee – Libby Vianu

Responding to major air releases is a tough issue to tackle. There are many data gaps and multiple entities involved, but no easy reference guide to help us. We are breaking new ground as the first group in the US approaching response to emergencies with air quality impacts from a multi-discipline and local-state-federal approach.

Issues to explore:

- How do we view our respective roles during an air emergency response?
- What products do we need for ourselves?
- How can we pool our resources, knowledge, and experience?
- What can we provide?

Formation of the Subcommittee:

- Members will self-identify, and participation is open to all.
- You can join more than one subcommittee.
- Let us know who else should join.
- We represent a group of people that the community will look to for answers in an air quality emergency.
- Everyone brings something to the subcommittee, such as experience, expertise, and information.
- The subcommittee offers an opportunity to create networks, identify resources, and offer training.
- Start providing input to the next CARPA conference (Fall 2010).

Discussion on Work Plan and Identifying Needs – Sue Woods

We reviewed possible subcommittee objectives from the Draft Work Plan distributed prior to the conference call. These objectives were compiled from the Data to Message breakout session at the 2008 conference.

Below is a summary of comments captured from conference call participants on stated needs and the assistance they would like from CARPA.

Comments and Ideas:

Exercise TTX. How can we come together and share expertise and resources?

Health based action levels. When is it the right decision for sheltering in place?

Understand how long before we can decide to evacuate or shelter in place. Best practices - - What do I need to know? Criteria for re-entry.

Identifying top 10 chemicals. Do we consider chemical on a local level, or even on a facility-by-facility basis, or do we consider bulk transit issues and the most likely spills statewide? Factsheets for the most common (~ 20 or so) chemicals released, or the most toxic ones used in CA.

Criteria for decision making. How do we make the right decisions to protect public health? Understanding the data and methodologies for capturing the data. Setting criteria for canceling public activities, providing guidance to local officials.

Decision Framework. Any incident has so many variables, and no one approach will be appropriate for all incidents. A framework would be helpful; one that provides a decision tree identifying critical health indicators, ready to use for rapid decision making.

Table Top Exercises. Mimic a real world issue, and don't start with the most severe incident. It is more helpful to build the exercise in intensity, and give participants a real chance to hear what their counterparts in other agencies would do in a particular scenario, without the high stress and pressure that normally accompanies a TTX. Use the opportunity to exercise existing emergency plans with real partners and to network with those who you may respond.

Building Bridges. Working with the other subcommittees on joint efforts is important. Interaction with others who have a role in air emergencies is important, including the first response community. Work on coordinating messages. Improve connections with CalFire and HazMat community.

Regional level meetings. Air districts may have a broader geographic scope than a county boundary. They need to be brought together to work with the counties they may effect. Help create connections across and within local jurisdictions. Could CARPA facilitate discussions on a regional or local basis? Also important is learning what deployable resources are in each community, what special districts overlap county lines, and who to call when a disaster happens.

SUMMARY:

Overall, we heard the themes of **action, exercising plans, and creating relationships.** **Regional collaboration and coordination** was identified and very important.

As we move forward to build the Data to Message Subcommittee, we will work to be action-oriented and focus on building collaborations that will help in preparing for and responding to major air releases or other emergencies with air quality impacts.

NEXT STEPS:

- 1) Subcommittee members are encouraged to comment on the ideas above and correct and/or expand where necessary.
- 2) Prioritize the needs identified above and formulating an approach to complete one or more (along with a timeline). This can be an agenda item for the next subcommittee meeting.

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 05, 1:30pm**
 Call-in number and agenda to be sent out in July.
 We hope to have a mix of subcommittee business and a guest presentation.